

The 25 Most Frequently Asked Questions of Kentucky's Women Veterans



“To receive the recognition and benefits we have earned, women veterans must take pride in their own military service and work together to eliminate the inequities that currently exist in benefits delivery. If women veterans stand together, we will affect change.”

1SG Pamela Luce, USA Retired,
Women Veterans Coordinator,
Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet was designed as a resource guide to the benefits and services available to women veterans in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Please send suggestions and comments to the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, Women Veterans Coordinator, 1111B Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. These questions and answers can also be found on the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) website at www.kdva.net. The information provided herein includes:

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World War II Women's Recruiting Poster



THE KENTUCKY WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

The Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation in March 2005 creating the Women Veterans Program within the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs because research shows women veterans are more likely to be unemployed, less likely to be enrolled in VA healthcare, and less likely to receive compensation for their service-connected disabilities than male veterans. The mission of the program is to ensure Kentucky women veterans have equitable access to federal and state veterans' services and benefits. The program provides assistance to women who served in the United States Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the United States Armed Forces and who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

The Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs has designated 1SG Pamela Luce, US Army Retired, as the Women Veterans Coordinator for the Commonwealth. She can be reached toll free at (888) 724-7683 or via email at pamela.luce@ky.gov. For benefits information and assistance call 1-800-928-4012.

The Women Veterans Coordinator will collaborate with federal, state, and local agencies on issues related to women veterans; perform outreach to improve women veterans' awareness of eligibility for federal and state veterans' services and benefits; assess the needs of women veterans with respect to benefits and services; review programs, research projects, and other initiatives designed to address or meet the needs of Kentucky's women veterans; make recommendations to the Commissioner to improve benefits and services; and incorporate women veterans' issues in strategic planning.

The primary components of the Women Veterans Program shall be:

- Advocacy and Public Awareness
- Collaboration
- Research and information dissemination
- Education
- Honor and Recognition
- Facilities

MILITARY RECORDS

- 1. How do I locate my military records or those of a relative?**
To obtain copies of your military records and/or "Report of Separation from Active Military Service" (DD Form 214 or equivalent), submit a "Request Pertaining to Military Records" (SF 180) to the records custodian of your branch of service. Addresses for each service's records custodian are found on page 2 of the SF 180. The SF 180 requires a signature and must be submitted either by mail or fax. Contact the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100, or fax requests to (314) 801-9195. Records may be requested via the web site at: www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/index.html.
- 2. How do I locate someone I served with in the military?**
VA can forward a message from you to a veteran, providing they have a current address on record. However, the Privacy Act obliges the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to protect the privacy of the veterans' personal information. Therefore, VA cannot release personal information without that person's permission.

Write your message to your friend and place it in an unsealed, stamped envelope. Include a note to VA explaining who it is that you are trying to reach and add as much identifying information as you have. Put all of this in another envelope and address it to the nearest VA Regional Office.

- Louisville Regional Office, 545 S. Third St, Louisville, KY 40202
- Nashville Regional Office, 110 9th Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37203
- Huntington Regional Office, 640 Fourth Ave., Huntington, WV 25701

If the veteran is in VA records, your message will be sealed and the envelope will be sent to the address on file for the veteran. It is then up to the veteran to contact you. If you have questions, you may call VA at 1-800-827-1000.

You may also contact the Women In Military Service for America Memorial (WIMSA) located at the ceremonial entrance of Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, at www.womensmemorial.org or by telephone at 1-800-222-2294.

3. How do I replace my medals that were lost or destroyed?

Write a letter requesting that you be issued all the award and emblems to which you are entitled. Attach your separation document and include your full name, Social Security number, former service number (if applicable), date and place of birth, your telephone number, and the full address you would like the medals to be delivered to. Sign your request and mail it to the appropriate address listed below:

- Army - US Army Reserve Personnel Center, ATTN: DARP-PAS-EAW, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
- Air Force - Air Force Reference Branch NCPMF, National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
- Marine Corps, Coast Guard & Navy - Navy Liaison Office (N314), National Personnel Records Center, Room 3475, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

4. How and where do I find historical information on women veterans?

For historical information on Kentucky's women veterans, contact the Kentucky Military History Museum, 100 West Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601-2931, Telephone: (502) 564-3265, Fax: (502) 564-4054.

You may also contact the Women In Military Service for America Memorial (WIMSA) located at the ceremonial entrance of Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, at www.womensmemorial.org or by telephone at 1-800-222-2294.



*World War II
Service
Women*

HEALTHCARE

5. What physical and mental healthcare services are available to women veterans in Kentucky?

A full continuum of comprehensive medical services are available including health promotion and disease prevention, primary care, women's gender-specific healthcare; e.g., hormone replacement therapy, breast and gynecological care, maternity and limited infertility (excluding in-vitro fertilization), acute medical/surgical, telephone triage, emergency and substance abuse treatment, mental health, domiciliary, rehabilitation and long term care. VA researchers at many VA facilities also conduct medical research on women's health.

6. How do I access the VA system for health services?

Veterans can apply for VA healthcare enrollment by completing VA Form 10-10EZ, "Application for Health Benefits." The 10-10EZ may be obtained by visiting, calling or writing any KDVA veterans' benefits office or VA healthcare facility.

- Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, 545 South Third Street, Louisville, KY 40202, Telephone: statewide 1-800-928-4012
- Lexington VAMC, 1101 Veterans Drive, Lexington, KY 40502-2236, Telephone: (859) 233-4511
- Louisville VAMC, 800 Zorn Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206, Telephone: (502) 287-4000
- Louisville Regional Office, 545 South Third St, Louisville, KY 40202, Telephone: statewide 1-800-827-1000

You can also call the VA Health Benefits Call Center toll-free at 1-877-222-VETS (1-877-222-8387) to determine your eligibility or access the form from the Health Administration Eligibility Reform website: www.va.gov/elig.

7. What if I need urgent or emergent care before my scheduled appointment?

If you experience an urgent or emergent medical condition, you can contact your local VA healthcare facility telephone care program or visit their walk-in (urgent care) clinic or emergency room. Non-acute problems will be scheduled on a next-available appointment basis.

8. Are VA services authorized for women veterans who were involuntarily discharged from the military for pregnancy prior to May 1974? If not, how does one get this issue addressed?

To determine your eligibility for services, contact the nearest VA healthcare facility.

- Lexington VAMC: (859) 233-4511
- Louisville VAMC: (502) 287-4000
- Huntington VAMC: (304) 429-6741
- Nashville VAMC: (615) 327-4751
- Murfreesboro VAMC: (615) 867-6000
- Marion VAMC: (618) 997-5311
- Cincinnati VAMC: (513) 861-3100

Women veterans involuntarily discharged may also be eligible for compensation and pension, vocational rehabilitation and employment, home loan guaranty, and burial benefits. Children born to veterans who served in Vietnam may also be eligible for monthly monetary benefits, medical care, and vocational training if they have certain birth defects linked to their mother's service. Contact the nearest KDVA veterans' benefits office or VA Regional Office or visit VA's homepage at www.va.gov.

- Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs: statewide 1-800-928-4012
- Louisville Regional Office: statewide 1-800-827-1000

9. Who can I contact to discuss the quality of the VA healthcare I have received?

Contact the Women Veterans Program Manager at your VAMC:

- Lexington, Myra Bushong: (859) 233-4511, ext. 5906
- Louisville, Judith McQuinn: (502) 287-4181 or Connie Smalley: (502) 287-4130
- Huntington, Mary Leithoff (304) 429-6741, ext. 3739 or Carla Martin (304) 429-6741, ext. 2158
- Nashville, MaryAnn Woodward-Smith: (615) 327-4751, ext. 5130
- Murfreesboro, Wanda Boss: (615) 867-6000, ext. 3109
- Marion, Cindy James (618) 997-5311, ext. 4559
- Cincinnati, Sharon Parker: (513) 475-6984

10. How can I receive gender-specific healthcare services, including Pap smears, mammography, prenatal and childcare?

Apply for VA healthcare enrollment by completing VA Form 10-10EZ which may be obtained by visiting, calling, or writing any VA healthcare facility or KDVA veterans' benefits office. You can also call toll-free 1-877-222-VETS (1-877-222-8387) or access the form on the Internet at www.va.gov. The provision of healthcare to non-veteran children is limited to those instances where specific authority is given to VA by law. Contact your local VA healthcare facility and ask to speak with the Women Veterans Program Manager:

- Lexington VAMC, Myra Bushong: (859) 233-4511, ext. 5906
- Louisville VAMC, Judith McQuinn: (502) 287-4181 or Connie Smalley: (502) 287-4130
- Huntington VAMC, Mary Leithoff (304) 429-6741, ext. 3739 or Carla Martin (304) 429-6741, ext. 2158
- Nashville VAMC, MaryAnn Woodward-Smith: (615) 327-4751, ext. 5130
- Murfreesboro VAMC, Wanda Boss: (615) 867-6000, ext. 3109
- Marion VAMC, Cindy James (618) 997-5311, ext. 4559
- Cincinnati VAMC, Sharon Parker: (513) 475-6984

11. Where can I get inpatient psychiatric care as a woman veteran?

Most VA Medical Centers have inpatient mental health programs. Contact your VA Primary Care Provider or the local Mental Health Program office for assistance. If you already have a therapist and need inpatient care, please discuss your concerns with your therapist.

- Lexington VAMC: (859) 233-4511
- Louisville VAMC: (502) 287-4000
- Huntington VAMC: (304) 429-6741
- Nashville VAMC: (615) 327-4751
- Murfreesboro VAMC: (615) 867-6000
- Marion VAMC: (618) 997-5311
- Cincinnati VAMC: (513) 861-3100

If you have urgent or emergent needs, you can contact your local VA healthcare facility telephone care program or urgent care clinic.

12. Where can I get treatment for Military Sexual Trauma?

You may enroll and receive counseling and treatment for any emotional or physical condition experienced as a result of sexual trauma suffered while on active duty at any VA healthcare facility or Vet Center in the continental United States without regard for your service-connected rating or length of military service.

- Lexington Vet Center, 301 E. Vine St., Suite C, Lexington, KY 40507, Telephone: (859) 253-0717
- Louisville Vet Center, 1347 S. 3rd St., Louisville, KY 40208, Telephone: (502) 634-1916
- Lexington VAMC: (859) 233-4511
- Louisville VAMC: (502) 287-4000
- Huntington VAMC: (304) 429-6741
- Nashville VAMC: (615) 327-4751
- Murfreesboro VAMC: (615) 867-6000
- Marion VAMC: (618) 997-5311
- Cincinnati VAMC: (513) 861-3100

13. Where are the specialized PTSD treatment centers?

The Lexington VA Medical Center operates a residential treatment program for eligible veterans with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder related to military trauma. Intensive treatment is offered to both male and female veterans experiencing moderate to severe psychological distress that is disrupting their daily lives and has not improved with outpatient treatment. If you are eligible for VA healthcare, have served in a theater of combat, have a provisional or actual diagnosis of PTSD, and need treatment, telephone: (859) 281-3949. Other Veteran Stress Disorder Treatment Programs specifically for women have been established at the following VA sites:

- Boston, MA: (617) 232-9500, ext. 5906
- Brecksville, OH: (440) 526-3030, ext. 7969
- Loma Linda, CA: (909) 825-7084, ext. 2595
- New Orleans, LA: (504) 568-0811, ext. 3430
- Bay Pines, FL: (727) 398-6661

BENEFITS

14. How and where do I apply for home, business, or car loans?

The VA Home Loan Guaranty Program provides loan guaranties to service members, veterans, reservists, and un-remarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums and manufactured homes, and for refinancing loans. VA loan guaranties can be used to:

- Buy a home
- Buy a residential condominium
- Build a home
- Repair, alter, or improve a home
- Refinance an existing loan
- Buy a manufactured home with or without a lot

You must complete VA Form 26-1880, "Request for a Certificate of Eligibility for VA Home Loan Benefits" and submit it to one of the VA Eligibility Centers along with acceptable proof of service as described on the instruction page of the form: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/26-1880.pdf>.

Contact the Center for Veteran Enterprise (in partnership with the Department of Labor and the Small Business Administration) to receive information, assistance, and mentoring if you are a veteran who would like to start your own business. See www.vetbiz.va.gov/ for additional information.

VA does not provide assistance for automobile purchases except for certain veterans and service members who need special adaptive equipment. To apply, contact the KDVA veterans' benefits office statewide at 1-800-928-4012 or the Louisville VA Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000 or a VA medical center.

15. How do I apply for VA benefits or get my current disability compensation claim reevaluated?

Contact the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits Branch at 1-800-928-4012 or refer to the Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents booklet, which may be downloaded at http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.htm. This booklet discusses:

- Compensation and Pension
- Montgomery GI Bill (Education)
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
- Veterans Group Life Insurance, and
- Home Loan Guaranty

Additional information and application forms can be obtained at KDVA's website: www.kdva.net or VA's website: www.va.gov. The Veterans Online Application (VONAP) allows you to complete and submit most application forms on-line. You may also call the VA nationwide toll-free number, 1-800-827-1000, for specific benefit information.

You may request reevaluation of your current claim anytime that you believe your condition has changed or worsened. Contact the nearest KDVA Field Benefits Representative toll free to assist you with your claim at:

- Mayfield, Ron McClure, Telephone: (877) 812-0840
- Hopkinsville, Hope King, Telephone: (800) 928-9622
- Glasgow, Gary Jones, Telephone: (800) 850-1392
- Louisville, Lisa Pittman or Astrid Locke, (800) 928-4012
- Springfield, Robert Nally, Telephone: (800) 928-0951
- Williamstown, Daniel Eldridge, Telephone: (800) 747-9963
- Owingsville, Penny Rhodes, Telephone: (866) 376-0308
- Prestonsburg, Roger Belcher, Telephone: (800) 928-1621
- London, Homer Vanover, Telephone: (877) 773-7747
- Wilmore, Eileen Ward, Telephone: (800) 928-4838
- Hanson, Renita Duff, Telephone: (877) 662-0008
- Hazard, Elaine Pollard, Telephone: (877) 856-0004
- Lexington, Vacant, Telephone: (859) 233-0462
- Fort Knox, Bob Higdon, Telephone: (502) 799-0418

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

16. Am I eligible for education benefits such as tuition waiver or the Montgomery GI Bill?

Although the waiver of tuition is an education benefit provided by the Commonwealth of Kentucky in recognition of veterans' military service, the waiver is for the veteran's dependents, not the veteran herself. An approved tuition waiver means a student may attend any 2-year, 4-year or vocational technical school that is operated and funded by the Kentucky Department of Education. The Commonwealth of Kentucky will waive tuition for the children, stepchildren, adopted children, spouses, and widows/widowers (not remarried) of certain veterans. Dependents of service members who died on active duty are eligible to apply for the waiver. Also eligible are dependents of veterans who died as a direct result of a service-connected disability, veterans 100% service connected disabled, totally disabled (non-service connected) veterans with wartime service, or upon the death of any veteran who served during a wartime period. For further information or to apply for a tuition waiver contact Jennifer Waddell of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-928-4012.

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans for college, business, technical or vocational courses, correspondence courses, apprenticeship or job training, and flight training. You may be an eligible veteran if you received an honorable discharge and have a high school diploma or GED, or, in some cases 12 hours of college credit, and meet the time in service requirements listed at www.gibill.va.gov. MGIB benefits end 10 years from the date of your last discharge or release from active duty. The delimiting date can be extended past your 10-year period under certain circumstances.

VA can also extend your 10-year period if you reenter active duty for 90 days or more after becoming eligible. The extension ends 10 years from the date of separation from the later period. Periods of active duty of less than 90 days can qualify you for extensions only if you were separated for a service-connected disability, a medical condition existing before active duty, a hardship, or a reduction in force. For more information, call 1-888-GIBILL-1.

17. How do I access education and employment options for women veterans?

Some Kentucky resources for veterans seeking jobs are:

- Army Career & Alumni Program (ACAP): Bldg 1109C, Rm 112, Spearhead Division Ave, Fort Knox, KY 40121, knoxacap@resourceconsultants.com, (502) 624-2227
- KY Department of Labor: 1047 US Highway 127 S, Suite 4, Frankfort, KY 40601, <http://www.labor.ky.gov/>, (502) 564-3070.
- KY Personnel Cabinet: 200 Fair Oaks Lane, 5th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601, <http://personnel.ky.gov/employment/> (502) 564-6920.
- KY Cabinet for Workforce Development: (502) 564-6606
- KY Department for Employment Services: (502) 564-5331
- KY Department for Technical Education: (800) 223-5632
- KY Department for Training and Reemployment: (502) 564-5360 or email LindaA.Prewitt@ky.gov
- KY Department for Vocational Rehabilitation: (800) 372-7172
- US DOL: www.dol.gov/dol/topic/hiring/veterans.htm
- US Office of Personnel Management: www.usajobs.opm.gov
- America's Job Bank: www.ajb.org
- US Department of Veterans Affairs – Office of Human Resources Management: <http://www.va.gov/jobs/>
- Corps Careers Job website: www.CorpsCareers.tv
- VA National Employment Office: www.va.gov/jobs
- Generic: www.monster.com

Veterans Upward Bound is a federal TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education to help veterans enter into and succeed in postsecondary school. It is a non-profit program that serves veterans in the eleven county area surrounding Bowling Green, and is free for those who participate. Veterans Upward Bound provides academic refresher classes, postsecondary school entry advising, academic advising, career advising, financial aid advising, field trips, and other services. The mailing address is: Veterans Upward Bound, 114 JJH, 1 Big Red Way, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101, Telephone: (270) 745-5310, web site: <http://www.wku.edu/vub/>.

HOMELESS SERVICES

18. Who can I contact if I am homeless or homeless with children?

Homeless women veterans can contact Dr. Patrick McKiernan, KDVA Homeless Veterans Outreach Coordinator at (888) 724-7683, your local Social Work Services Department, or the Women Veterans Program Manager at your VAMC:

- Lexington, Myra Bushong: (859) 233-4511, ext. 5906
- Louisville, Judith McQuinn: (502) 287-4181 or Connie Smalley: (502) 287-4130
- Huntington, Mary Leithoff (304) 429-6741, ext. 3739 or Carla Martin (304) 429-6741, ext. 2158
- Nashville, Mary Ann Woodward-Smith: (615) 327-4751, ext. 5130
- Murfreesboro, Wanda Boss: (615) 867-6000, ext. 3109
- Marion, Cindy James (618) 997-5311, ext. 4559
- Cincinnati, Sharon Parker: (513) 475-6984

Kentucky's Homeless Continuum of Care Resource List contains contact information for shelters, emergency assistance, and crisis counseling in every county in Kentucky: <http://www.kyhousing.org/center/Programs/Continuum/COCmanual.pdf>.

Rape Crisis: 1-800-656-HOPE

Domestic Violence: 1-800-744-SAFE

Twenty-four crisis phone numbers for Community Mental Health Centers throughout Kentucky, listed by county are:

- Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Marshall & McCracken: *Four Rivers Behavioral Health* (800) 592-3980
- Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson & Warren: *LifeSkills* (800) 223-8913 or (270) 843-4357
- Bath, Boyd, Boyle, Carter, Elliott, Greenup, Lawrence, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan & Rowan: *Pathways* (800) 562-8909

- Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Rockcastle & Whitley: *Cumberland River* (606) 526-9598 call collect
- Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Owen & Pendleton: *North Key Community Care* (877) 331-3292
- Anderson, Bourbon, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott & Woodford: *Bluegrass Regional MH/MR* (800) 928-8000
- Bracken, Fleming, Lewis, Mason & Robertson: *Comprehend* (877) 852-1523
- Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson & Washington: *Communicare* (270) 769-1304
- Bulitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer & Trimble: *Seven Counties Services* (800) 221-0446
- Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Hopkins, Lyon, Muhlenberg, Todd & Trigg: *Pennyroyal Regional MH/MR* (877) 473-7766
- Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor & Wayne: *Adanta* (800) 633-5599
- Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union & Webster: *River Valley Behavioral Health* (800) 433-7291
- Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin & Pike: *Mountain Comp Care Center* (800) 422-1060
- Breathitt, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, Perry & Wolfe: *Kentucky River Community Care* (606) 666-8712

The Kentucky Housing Corporation makes homeownership possible for low- and moderate-income Kentucky families by administering federal programs that include rental assistance, rental housing production financing, homeownership education and counseling, and rental assistance, housing rehabilitation and home repair initiatives. They can be contacted at (800) 633-8896 or (502) 564-7630 and are located at 1231 Louisville Rd, Frankfort, KY 40601-6191.

There are also homeless women veterans with children pilot programs located in: Atlanta, GA; Brooklyn, NY; Tampa, FL; Cleveland, OH; Cincinnati, OH; Dallas, TX; Houston, TX; Los Angeles, CA; San Francisco, CA; and Seattle, WA.

NURSING HOME CARE

19. How do I get evaluated for nursing home care?

If you are a resident of Kentucky, a veteran with a discharge other than dishonorable, and you are in need of skilled nursing care, you may be eligible for admission to one of Kentucky's three State Veterans Centers. Applications are available at: <http://www.kdva.net/okvcapp.pdf>. For further information, contact the nearest Admissions Coordinator:

- Thomson-Hood Veterans Center, 100 Veterans Drive, Wilmore, KY 40390 Telephone: statewide (800) 928-4838 or (859) 858-2814
- Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center, 200 Veterans Drive, Hazard, KY 41701 Telephone: statewide (877) 856-0004 or (606) 435-6196
- Western Kentucky Veterans Center, 926 Veterans Drive, Hanson, KY 42413 Telephone: statewide (877) 662-0008 or (270) 322-9087

If you are interested in a federal VA healthcare facility, you must first enroll for benefits. Then you must enroll in a primary care clinic and ask for an evaluation for nursing home care. The evaluation will be done either by your primary care provider or a geriatrics care team and you will be referred to an appropriate VA healthcare facility.



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Kentucky
Veterans
Center,
Hazard
Kentucky*

BURIAL BENEFITS

20. What are veterans' burial options in Kentucky?

Burial benefits for veterans include a gravesite in a state or national veterans' cemetery with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, all at no cost to the family. Some veterans may also be eligible for burial allowances. Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a state or national veterans' cemetery include burial with the veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse's or dependent's name and date of birth and death inscribed on the veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family.

Burial in Kentucky's state veterans' cemeteries is open to all members of the Armed Forces, eligible family members and veterans who have met minimum active duty service requirements and have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. The first of Kentucky's five state veterans' cemeteries is located in Hopkinsville near Fort Campbell and the second is being built in Radcliff near Fort Knox. Additional cemeteries are planned in Grant County and two eastern Kentucky locations yet to be determined. Pre-applications can be obtained at: <http://www.kdva.net/eligibilityapp.pdf>. For more information about burial in state or national veterans' cemeteries, call David Worley of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-888-724-7683.

Upon the family's request, every eligible veteran may receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the US burial flag and the playing of Taps. The honors detail consists of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the veteran's parent service of the armed forces. The funeral home director will request military funeral honors on behalf of the veterans' family. Veterans' Service Organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors. The military funeral honors web site is: www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil

For information regarding burial in Arlington National Cemetery contact the Interment Services Branch at: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA 22211, Telephone: (703) 607-8585, website: www.arlingtoncemetery.org.

NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE BENEFITS

21. Where can I find information about benefits and services for National Guard and Reserves?

Current and former members of the Selected Reserve who served on active duty may establish veteran status and may therefore be eligible for VA benefits depending on the length of active military service and the character of discharge or release. Members of the National Guard activated for federal service during a period of war or domestic emergency may be eligible for certain VA benefits, such as VA healthcare, compensation for injuries or conditions connected to that service and burial benefits. Activation for other than federal service does not qualify Guard members for all VA benefits.

Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom Veterans: VA provides two years of free healthcare for veterans who served in certain combat locations during active military service, beginning on the date of separation from active duty. This benefit covers all illnesses and injuries except those clearly unrelated to active military service. For information visit: www1.va.gov/environagents/docs/SVABENEFITS.pdf or call 1-877-222-8387.

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) was established to meet the needs of separating service members during their period of transition into civilian life by offering job-search assistance and related services. The law that created TAP established a partnership among the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Transportation and the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), to give employment and training information to Armed Forces members within 180 days of separation or retirement. TAP helps service members and their spouses make the initial transition from military service to the civilian workplace with less difficulty and at less overall cost to the government. TAP consists of comprehensive three-day workshops at selected military installations nationwide. Professionally trained workshop facilitators from the State Employment Services, military family support services, Department of Labor contractors, or VETS' staff present the workshops.

For more information about the U.S. Department of Labor employment and training programs for veterans, visit: www.dol.gov/vets/aboutvets/contacts/main.htm or contact the VETS office nearest you:

- Frankfort: Charles R. Netherton or Bonnie J. Kunkle, Telephone: (502) 564-7062, Fax: (502) 564-1476, email: Netherton.charles@ or Kunkle.bonnie@, 275 East Main Street, 2nd Floor West – 2WD, Frankfort, KY 40621-2339
- Covington: Robert A. Kuenzli, Telephone: (859) 292-6666, ext. 253, Fax: (859) 292-6708, email: Kuenzli.robert@, 320 Garrard Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011



*World
War II
Air Force
Nurses*

RESEARCH & LEGISLATION

22. Where do I find research studies and surveys on women veterans?

The Office of Research and Development at VA Central Office oversees research within the Veterans Health Administration through its four service areas:

- The *Medical Research Service* provides knowledge of the fundamental biological processes to form an understanding of disease pathology, diagnosis, and treatment. (<http://www1.va.gov/resdev/>).
- The *Cooperative Studies Program* applies the knowledge gained from medical research to patients by determining the effectiveness of novel or unproved therapies using multi-center clinical intervention trials (<http://www1.va.gov/resdev/programs/blrd-csrd/csp.cfm>).
- The *Health Services Research and Development Service* contributes to improving the quality, effectiveness, efficiency, and accessibility of healthcare services for veterans (<http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/>).
- The *Rehabilitation Research and Development Service* addresses the minimization of disability and restoration of function in veterans disabled by trauma or disease (www.vard.org/rehab.htm).

Some other important VA research websites to know are:

- VA Stars and Stripes Healthcare Network (Women Veterans' Health): www.starsandstripes.med.va.gov/visn4/page.cfm?pg=26
- The Center for Women Veterans: www.va.gov/womenvet/
- Women Veterans Comprehensive Health Center: www.sf.med.va.gov/womens.htm

23. How do I locate statistics on women veterans by state and nationally?

VA provides statistics and demographic information on various veteran populations at: www.va.gov/vetdata/index.htm under Program Statistics, Table 2. Additional statistics by state can be found on the same website under Demographics, VetPop, National and State.

24. Where can I locate legislation on women's issues?

Kentucky Revised Statutes regarding veterans can be found at: <http://LRC.ky.gov/KRS/040-00/CHAPTER.HTM> and legislation establishing the Kentucky Women Veterans Program is located at: <http://LRC.ky.gov/record/05rs/hb62/bill.doc>.

You may access state legislative information and follow-up on bills through the Kentucky Legislature Home Page at: <http://LRC.ky.gov/home.htm>. Federal legislative information on Congressional bills is available through the Thomas website at www.thomas.loc.gov.



*The Vietnam
Women's
Memorial,
Washington,
D.C.*

GET INVOLVED

25. How can I get involved?

Join Kentucky's Women Veterans' Registry by completing and mailing the below postcard or register online at www.kdva.net/womenvets.htm. The registry is a protected database established and maintained by the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs to create a network of communication among women veterans across the Commonwealth. Contact information is not released to the public or any other veteran without permission.

Join a Veteran Service Organization. They are available in most communities. Telephone book yellow pages will list local veteran groups under "Veterans" or "Veteran Service Organizations." Organizations are also listed at: <http://www1.va.gov/vso/index.cfm?template=view>.

Examples of organizations include:

- Disabled American Veterans, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076, Telephone: (859) 441-7300 or writing
- The American Legion has posts across Kentucky listed at: http://members.tripod.com/~Post_119_Gulfport_MS/ky.htm
- Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US, Telephone: (502) 635-2638 or email: vfwdpky@bellsouth.net.

Share your story with the Women in Military Service for America Memorial (WIMSA) by calling 1-800-222-2294 or (703) 533-1155, writing to WIMSA at Suite 302, 5510 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204, or sending an e-mail to oralhistory@womensmemorial.org.

WIMSA also has volunteer opportunities if you are interested in speaking about the Women's Memorial, a specific era, or women in the military. Contact the Public Relations and Education Department by calling the numbers above or by e-mailing hq@womensmemorial.org. The WIMSA website is located at: www.womensmemorial.org.



Name:
Address:
City/State:
Telephone:
Email:

Presorted
Standard
US Postage Paid
Frankfort, KY
Permit No. 888

Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs
ATTN: Women Veterans Coordinator
1111B Louisville Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

postage
required

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

Add me to the KDVA registry of Women Veterans _____

I served in the:

Air Force _____
Army _____
Navy _____
Marine Corps _____

Send me a free "Kentucky Woman Veteran" window decal _____
(See back cover of booklet, actual size 3" x 5")

Please have a KDVA Veterans Benefit Representative call me _____

Please send comments or suggestions to:

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs
Women Veterans Coordinator
1111B Louisville Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(502) 564-9203 or (888) 724-7683
www.kdva.net



To receive your free "*Kentucky Woman Veteran*" window decal, cut out the postcard on the previous page, fill it out on both sides, and mail it to the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs.